

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 15-17, 24, 28, 32, 52-55 were pending in the subject application.

Applicants respectfully note that claims 1-3 have been amended, claims 54 and 55 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 56-59 have been added. Support for the amendment of claims 1 and 2 may be found on pages 16, lines 6-16 of the original specification and in originally filed claim 8. Support for new claims 56-59 may be found on page 13, lines 12-24, and page 19, lines 10-14 of the original specification. This amendment does not involve any issue of new matter. Applicants respectfully request entry of the subject amendment such that claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 15-17, 24, 28, 32, 52, 53, 56-59 will be pending.

Applicants hereby request that the Examiner enter the Communication filed December 12, 2003 for the record, which addresses each of the outstanding grounds of rejection in the August 25, 2003 final Office Action.

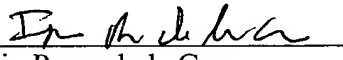
The undersigned would like to thank Examiner David Romeo for taking the time to discuss the subject application which helped advance prosecution of the application. During a Tuesday February 10, 2004 conference, Examiner Romeo conceded that claims relating to chronic diabetic nephropathy, the chronic renal condition species that had been searched, are allowable. Accordingly, Examiner Romeo has agreed to expand the search to other chronic renal conditions. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 2 to recite certain chronic renal conditions formerly listed in claims 54 and 55.

Conclusions

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. No fee other than the \$770 RCE fee, the \$950 three-month extension of time fee, and the \$38 claim fee, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. Authorization is hereby given to charge the any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. JJJ-P01-515 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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